

A Jewish Museum Boutique Trip: Scotland & the Scottish Highlands September 4 - 14, 2012



Loch Tummel, Queens View, Scotland

Scotland's legends and folklore are permeated with Biblical allusions – including “Lia Fail,” the Stone of Destiny, (magical stone in Celtic mythology) which served as the coronation stone for the High Kings and is said to have been Jacob's pillow in the Bible. However, while exactly when Jews first settled in Scotland is not known, there is evidence it dates back to the 13th century – with Jewish visitors and traders reaching Scotland possibly as far back as Roman times.

This exceptional “boutique” tour of Scotland will bring to life the heritage and tradition of the Jews of Scotland. Limited to 18 travelers, our journey will take us from majestic Edinburgh to the breathtaking Scottish Highlands. Along the way, we will experience Scotland's awe-inspiring landscape, rugged coastline and verdant countryside, meet with members of the Jewish community in Edinburgh and Glasgow and enjoy deluxe, five star accommodations.

We invite you to join us on this unique and fascinating travel experience (Boutique Trip: Limited to 18 participants).

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Scotland & the Scottish Highlands**
September 4 - 14, 2012

Tuesday, September 4:

Depart U.S.A. for Edinburgh, Scotland

Wednesday, September 5:

Arrive Edinburgh Airport. Check in to the five star, deluxe, legendary Balmoral – considered Edinburgh’s grandest hotel. This afternoon, we will begin our trip with a panoramic City Tour of Edinburgh – our first opportunity to view Scotland’s magnificent Capital City. Known for its superb architecture, Edinburgh is a sight to behold with such landmarks as Carlton Hill, Edinburgh Castle and The Firth of Forth Bridge.

Evening: Orientation and Welcoming Dinner (included).

Thursday, September 6:

Following breakfast we travel to Glasgow for a visit to The Jewish Archive Centre where we will meet with Harvey Kaplan, Curator of the Scottish Jewish Archive, and learn about the rich history of Glasgow’s Jewish community. Following the Scottish Jewish Archive, free time for lunch in the area of Kelvingrove Museum and visit to the original Jewish areas of Glasgow; historic St. Mungo’s Cathedral, and the Kelvingrove Museum – housing one of Europe’s great civic art collections (including work by Salvador Dali). Return to Edinburgh in time for dinner on own.

Friday, September 7:

We will begin today with a visit to Edinburgh Castle. With its commanding views of the city and beyond, the castle is a symbol of Scotland known the world over – replete with legend and colorful history. Here we will see the “Honours of Scotland” (Crown Jewels – among the oldest in Europe), “The Stone of Destiny,” and the State Apartments. Following free time for lunch, we will visit the Royal Yacht Britannia – providing an insight to life on board the yacht belonging to the Royal family. This famous yacht (with its luxurious Queen’s bedroom, Duke’s sitting room and State Drawing Room) also provided accommodation for several royal honeymoons – including HRH Prince Charles, and the late Diana, Princess of Wales, among others.

Evening: Meet with representative of the Jewish community of Edinburgh, followed by Services at The Edinburgh Synagogue. Shabbat Dinner at our hotel (included).



Edinburgh ‘Old Town’

Saturday, September 8:

Morning free to rest, relax, shop, attend Services or continue to explore Edinburgh on our own.

Afternoon: (optional) walking tour in “Underground Edinburgh” where we will traverse the underground streets of the mid 17th century Edinburgh, including Mary King’s close – where people lived and worked for centuries.

Evening free for dinner in one of Edinburgh’s picturesque restaurants.

Sunday, September 9:

Early morning departure for visit to Loch Lomond National Park – including a cruise on Loch Lomond and travel through the impressive forest covered hills of The Trossachs. Following lunch in the National Park, continue to Stirling Castle – where the ancient Kings and Queens of Scotland held their magnificent feasts and celebrations. A Royal stronghold and regimental garrison, Stirling Castle has played an important role in the history of Scotland – a site where great medieval armies clashed to decide the fate of nations. Return to Edinburgh for dinner on our own.

Monday, September 10:

Depart Edinburgh for the renowned Scottish Highlands. Traveling through and savoring the majestic beauty of Rannoch Mor, we will reach Loch Ness by late morning and enjoy a delightful cruise on this lake made famous by “Nessie” – the Loch Ness Monster. This afternoon, among other sites, we will visit the Bronze age Standing Stones and pre-historic burial chambers at Clava Cairns before reaching our hotel, the Culloden House, in Inverness, in time for dinner (included).

Tuesday, September 11:

Day at leisure in Inverness, where we will find the warmest of welcomes. There is plenty to do and see in Inverness, browse the shops from old to new or visit the famous Victorian Market. Take a stroll to Inverness Castle currently used as a courthouse, and St. Andrew’s Cathedral which dominates the River Ness and what has been described as one of the most beautiful riverside settings in Scotland.

Evening free for dinner in Inverness.



Eilean Donan Castle –the Scottish Highlands

Wednesday, September 12:

Today we will visit the mystical Isle of Skye, surrounded by lovely glens, mountain passes, cliffs, and magnificent sea views. En-route, we will stop at one of Scotland’s most iconic images, Eilean Donan Castle, before crossing the land bridge to the Isle of Skye. The Isle of Skye, a region steeped in mythology, history, legends and fairies, has inspired poets and artists throughout the centuries. Before boarding a ferry for our return to the mainland, we will visit Armadale Castle Gardens – incorporating the clan Donald Centre – whose exhibits trace the history of the highlands and the islands. Return to our hotel in time for dinner on our own.

Thursday, September 13:

Depart the Scottish Highlands for our return journey to Edinburgh. Along the way, we will visit the Glenfiddich Whiskey Distillery. Glenfiddich is little changed since 1886, when William Grant and his nine children rolled up their sleeves to build the distillery. These same silent warehouses and steamy mash rooms produce the world's favorite single malt Scotch Whiskey.

Evening: Festive, Farewell Dinner at the Balmoral, in Edinburgh (included).

Friday, September 14:

Depart for Edinburgh International Airport and home.



**Jewish Tartan History:
The Meaning Behind The Threads**

Religious experts and Tartan Authorities worked meticulously to come up with a design that reflected religious values and Scottish history. The colors, weave, and number of threads have all been picked for their importance in Judaism.

In the tartan design, the blue and white the colors of both the Israeli and Scottish flags are represented – with the central gold line representing the gold from the Ark in the Biblical Tabernacle along with its ceremonial vessels. The silver represents the silver that adorn Scrolls of the Torah in many Synagogues while the color red is for the traditional red Kiddush wine.

There are seven lines in the central motif and three in the flag representations. Both numbers are of great significance in Judaism.

Our Tour Leader and Guide:



Conor Ellard, has guided several prior Jewish Museum trips. Steeped in the land's history, politics and people, Conor has worked with us for many years, guiding and helping organize many programs. He is familiar with, and well qualified to lead our group to Scotland. Both personally and professionally, he will be a delight to travel with, introduce us to Scotland – both from a Jewish and Scot perspective – and, if asked, also happy to raise his beautiful baritone voice in song.

Our Accommodations: The hotels reserved were selected for their locations, comfort and discreet personalized service.



Edinburgh:

The 5 star Balmoral is a luxury hotel in the true sense of the word. With its majestic clock tower, the hotel is a unique and contemporary luxury five-star property in the very heart of Edinburgh. While many Edinburgh hotels claim to have Edinburgh's landmarks on their doorstep, few can say their doorstep is a landmark. Located on Princes Street, in Edinburgh's main shopping area and next to Waverley Station, The Balmoral is close to the leading luxury department stores and within walking distance of many Edinburgh attractions.

The Balmoral was named as Scotland's Leading Hotel at the World Travel Awards 2011 and their restaurant, Number One, has a reputation for world class cuisine, retaining its Michelin star for the 9th consecutive year in 2011.



The Highlands:

The Culloden House, awarded No. 1 hotel in Scotland in the 2011 Conde Nast Traveler, will be our home in the Highlands. Hundreds of years of history, culture and luxury are combined with a relaxed atmosphere, personalized service and superb cuisine. This handsome Inverness luxury hotel stands in nearly 40 acres where you are free to wander about the woodland and private gardens to enjoy the exceptional peace, tranquility and majesty of the grounds. The interior features a wonderfully comfortable drawing-room with many fine antiques and a large open fire.



Loch Tulla in the Scottish Highlands

Program Details:

Participation: Limited to 18 participants, this program is open to members of The Jewish Museum. Non-members are welcome to join the Museum and participate. Designed for people of all ages, Museum travel programs entail walking moderate distances and may include uneven or slightly hilly terrain and need to be able to keep up with the group.

Land Program Cost: \$5500

(plus \$75 Jewish Museum membership fee for nonmembers)

***Program Cost Includes:**

- Nine nights at 5-star deluxe hotels
- Breakfast daily, 2 lunches and four dinners
- All lectures, presentations, guided tours, Ferry costs and Museum & site entrance fees
- All ground transportation
- Chartered sightseeing boat on Loch Lomond and Loch Ness

*Per person, based on double occupancy. Single supplement available at \$1150. For those preferring to share a room and need a roommate, we will try and provide one for you; otherwise, single supplement will apply. Gratuities (\$145) additional. Balance in full due by May 15, 2012

Changes:

All rights are reserved by the Program Directors to make faculty substitutions and/or to modify the itinerary (including hotels) as needed.

Insurance:

For losses necessitated by you having to cancel your participation, for your convenience, trip cancellation insurance forms will be sent upon registration or consult your own insurance agent.

Cancellations:

Refunds and Insurance: All cancellations must be received by the Jewish Museum Travel Program in writing. Cancellations received 90 days prior to departure: full refund less \$750 deposit per person; 89-60 days prior to departure: 50% refund per person after nonrefundable deposit. No refunds after this date.

REGISTRATION

Please complete, include a non-refundable deposit of \$750 per person, and mail or fax to:
The Jewish Museum Travel Program Tel. (845) 256-0194 / Fax (845) 256-0196
27 North Chestnut Street
New Paltz, NY 12561

Destination and Date of Trip

Name 1

Name 2

Address

City

State

Zip

Email address

Telephone: Day

Evening

METHOD OF DEPOSIT *CREDIT CARD REGISTRATION ACCEPTED BY TELEPHONE OR FAX

Check enclosed Mastercard Visa American Express

Card number

Expiration date and security code

Deposit amount (If you are not a member of the Museum, a membership fee of \$75 will be added to the final invoice). Information, including benefits of membership and options for other levels of membership with enhanced benefits will be forwarded with registration acknowledgement.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Double room Single room

Share a room with _____

I'm traveling with _____

TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

I will make my own air arrangements I would like help with my travel arrangements

DISCLAIMER OF RESPONSIBILITY:

By registering for this program, participant specifically waives any and all claims of action against The Jewish Museum and its staff for damages, loss, injury, accident or death incurred by any person in connection with this tour. The Jewish Museum and its respective employees assume no responsibility or liability in connection with the service of any train, vessel, carriage, aircraft or other conveyance which may be used wholly or in part in the performance of their duty to the passengers. Neither will The Jewish Museum be responsible for any injury, death, loss, accident, delay or irregularity through neglect or default of any company or person engaged in carrying out the purposes for which tickets, vouchers, or coupons are issued. No responsibility is accepted for losses or expenses due to sickness, weather, strikes, wars and other causes. In the event it becomes necessary or advisable for any reason whatsoever to alter the itinerary or arrangements, such alterations may be made without penalty.